MUSICAL TERMS

growing faster

LEVEL I

allegro
legato
rit., ritard, ritardando
forte (f)
piano (p)
mezzo forte (mf)
mezzo piano (mp)
crescendo
decrescendo

accelerando, accel.

fast, quick (cheerful, merrily)
smooth and connected
gradually slower
loud
soft
medium loud
medium soft
gradually louder
gradually softer

LEVEL II

dolce
andante
allegretto
fortissimo (ff)
pianissimo (pp)
fine
da capo al fine (D.C. al fine)
dal segno (D.S.)
staccato

: repeat signs

sweetly
walking tempo
not quite so lively as allegro, a little allegro
very loud
very soft
the end
return to the beginning and play to the fine
return to the sign
not connected (shorten the note)
first and second endings
play the music inside the signs again

LEVEL III

11:

tempo
a tempo
diminuendo
adagio
cantabile
fermata
slur
tie
accent
staccato

rate of speed
return to the original tempo
gradually softer
very slow
in a singing style
hold longer than the note value
a curved line that indicates legato
a curved line connecting notes of the same
pitch- extends the duration of the note
louder, stressed
not connected, shorten the note

LEVEL IV

largo ozzom úia meno mosso espressivo

sforzando (sf, sfz)

con moto scherzando

arpeggio

sempre senza

stately, broadly, dignified with more motion, quicker with less motion, slower

expressively

a sudden sharp accent

with motion

jokingly, lightly, playfully

singing the tones of a chord in succession

always without

LEVEL V

vivace

tessitura

quick, lively

little by little

the average pitch level of a song or part of a

sona

poco a poco

dipthong colla voce a vowel with two sounds

with the voice, the accompaniment adjusts to

the tempo of the voice

maestoso

bel canto

majestic beautiful singing; a combination of power,

beautiful tone, purity of intonation and flexibility

andantino not quite as slow as andante

doloroso sadly, sorrowfully

LEVEL VI

libretto

cadenza

the words of an opera or musical

a brilliant passage, usually at the end of a

piece

leggiero

recitative

lightly declamatory singing, quite free in tempo and

rhythm

counter tenor

rubato

a male voice which sings in the treble range

performed so that note values have an

elasticity of tempo

ralientando (rali.)

animato

growing slower and slower

animated, with spirit

grazioso

gracefully

LEVEL VII

mezza voce, a demi-voix

with half the power of the voice

ruhig fröhlich quiet, peaceful

geschwindt

gay, glad, joyous swiftly, rapidly

langsam

slowly

Lied(er) chanson

German song(s) French song

art song

a relatively short song which uses serious

poetry as the text

messa di voce

the singing of a single pitch begun pianissimo,

swelling to fortissimo, and returning to

pianissimo

syncopation

a momentary contradiction of the meter or pulse- often by changing strong and weak

beats within a measure